

Message Text

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. DEVELOPMENTS

USIA FOR IBS, IPS, IEE, IOP/M; DEPT FOR EUR/SOV; MUNICH FOR VOA

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1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE ON THE NEW PRESIDENT WHICH APPEARED IN MOST RECENT "OGONEK" MAGAZINE. IN ADDITION TO SOUNDING THEME OF EXPECTED CONTINUITY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, THE ARTICLE TAKES UP A LINE THAT HAS BEEN HINTED AT IN OTHER SOVIET MEDIA COMMENTARIES, DESCRIBING THE CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS AS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INTERACTING PRESSURES, WHICH INCLUDED EFFORTS BY OPPONENTS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S FOREIGN POLICY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WATERGATE AFFAIR IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GROWING POPULAR DISSATISFACTION OVER DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHILE THESE "ENEMIES OF DETENE" ARE DIRECTLY ACCUSED ONLY OF TRYING TO EXPLOIT PRESIDENT NIXON'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE CHANGES IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY, THE ARTICLE, ALONG WITH OTHER REPORTS IN PAST WEEK, LEAVES THE IMPLICATON THAT THEIR EFFORTS FORMED PART OF THE PRESSURE THAT FORCED HIS EVENTUAL RESIGNATION.

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2. BEGIN SUMMARY TRANSLATION. "OUR OPINION" BY IGOR TROYANOVSKIY. "NEW U.S. PRESIDENT." GERALD FORD HAS BEEN SWORN IN AS THE 38TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE FALL OF 1973 GERALD FORD WAS APPOINTED U.S. VICE-PRESIDENT, GIVING UP HIS POSITION AS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER. HE REPLACED SPIRO AGNEW, WHO HAD BECOME INVOLVED IN FINANCIAL MACHINATIONS. NOW GERALD FORD, SKIPPING THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PROCESS, HAS TAKEN THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE IN THE WHITEHOUSE AS A RESULT OF THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD NIXON.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF REPUBLICANS TO BUG THE DEMOCRATS' HEADQUARTERS IN WATERGATE IN 1972 LED TO A WATERFALL OF RESIGNATIONS, COURT INQUIRIES, AND A LOUD PRESS CAMPAIGN. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WAS UNDER SERIOUS CRITICISM OVER THE COUNTRY'S DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE GROWTH OF INFLATION AND A CONSIDERABLE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING. PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOWED THAT A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS DISAPPROVED OF NIXON'S DOMESTIC POLICY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THOSE WHO WERE SEEKING BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO COMPROMISE THE NATION'S FOREIGN POLICY ATTEMPTED TO USE THE "WATERGATE AFFAIR" TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. ENEMIES OF DETENTE ACTIVELY WORKED AGAINST POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. ON THE EVE OF HIS LAST VISIT TO THE USSR, PRESIDENT NIXON WAS VICTIMIZED BY THOSE WHO DESIRED A RETURN TO THE "COLD WAR". PEOPLE LIKE SENATOR JACKSON AND A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS DEMANDED STRAIGHTFORWARDLY THAT NIXON CANCEL HIS USSR TRIP AND BLACKENED IN ADVANCE ANY POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS ON CRUCIAL QUESTIONS AS MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS "WEAKNESS".

AFTER THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAD VOTED ITS DECISION, RICHARD NIXON WAS FACED WITH CONGRESSIONAL SESSIONS ON HIS IMPEACHMENT AND, IN THE EVENT HE WAS FOUND GUILTY, HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. ON ORDER FROM COURT AUTHORITIES, THE WHITE HOUSE TURNED OVER TO THE COMMITTEE TAPES OF NIXON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS ASSISTANTS ON WATERGATE. EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION, RICHARD NIXON STATED: "AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER LEADERS, I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT, BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, I NO LONGER HAVE THE BASE IN CONGRESS WHICH I DEEM NECESSARY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT MY DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND EXECUTION OF MY PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES. AMERICA NEEDS A PRESIDENT WHO WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ALL HIS TIME TO HIS DIRECT DUTIES." NIXON STRESSED THAT NEW RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE USSR AND THAT THEY MUST BE DEVELOPED AND CONTINUED SO THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES COULD LIVE IN COOPERATION AND NOT IN CONFRONTATION.

IN HIS TURN, GERALD FORD STATED AFTER (SIC) HE HAD ASSUMED

THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.: "I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW CLOSELY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WHICH DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL AS FAR AS PEACE AND SECURITY ARE CONCERNED. I BELIEVE THIS POLICY WILL MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE FUTURE. IN SO FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON ME IN MY CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT, THIS POLICY IS TO BE CONTINUED."

THE AMERICAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY THE STATEMENTS OF LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES STRESSING THEIR INTENTION TO PRESERVE THE PREVIOUS COURSE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. MANY OBSERVERS POINT OUT THAT PRESIDENT FORD ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE DIPLOMACY OF HIS PREDECESSOR AND HAS GREAT POLITICAL AND STATESMANSHIP EXPERIENCE TO ASSIST THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. THE NEWS THAT ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, HENRY KISSINGER, WILL STAY ON AT THE PERSONAL REQUEST OF THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS MET WITH SATISFACTION.

GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV STATED: "WE WANT THE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP TO BECOME GENUINELY STABLE, NOT DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION OF THE MOMENT. OUR STAND IS THAT BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND THE WORLD AT LARGE WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FURTHER DEVELOPING OF THESE RELATIONS." END SUMMARY TRANSLATION.
STOESSEL

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